

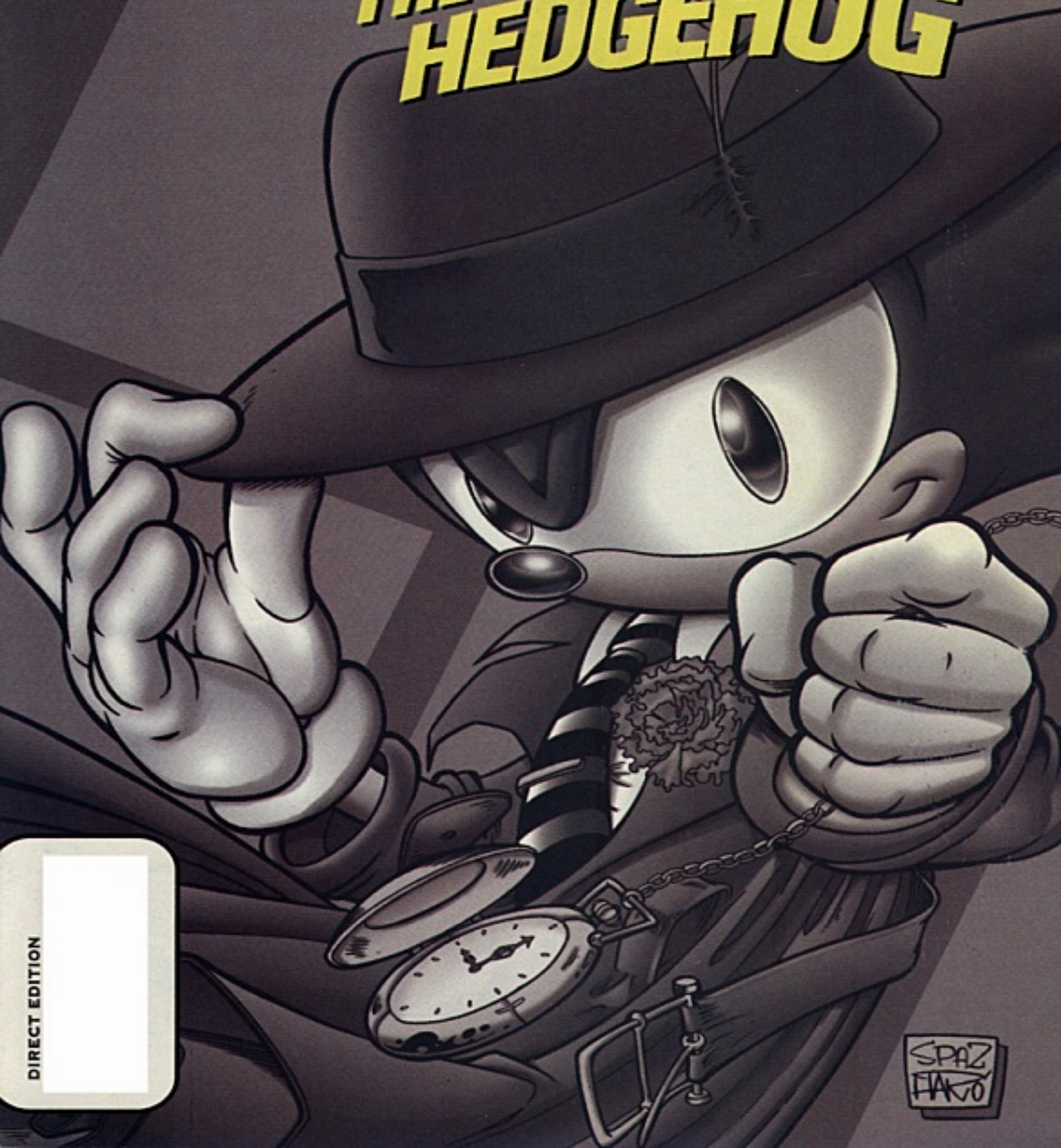
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SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION

SPAZ
HAWK



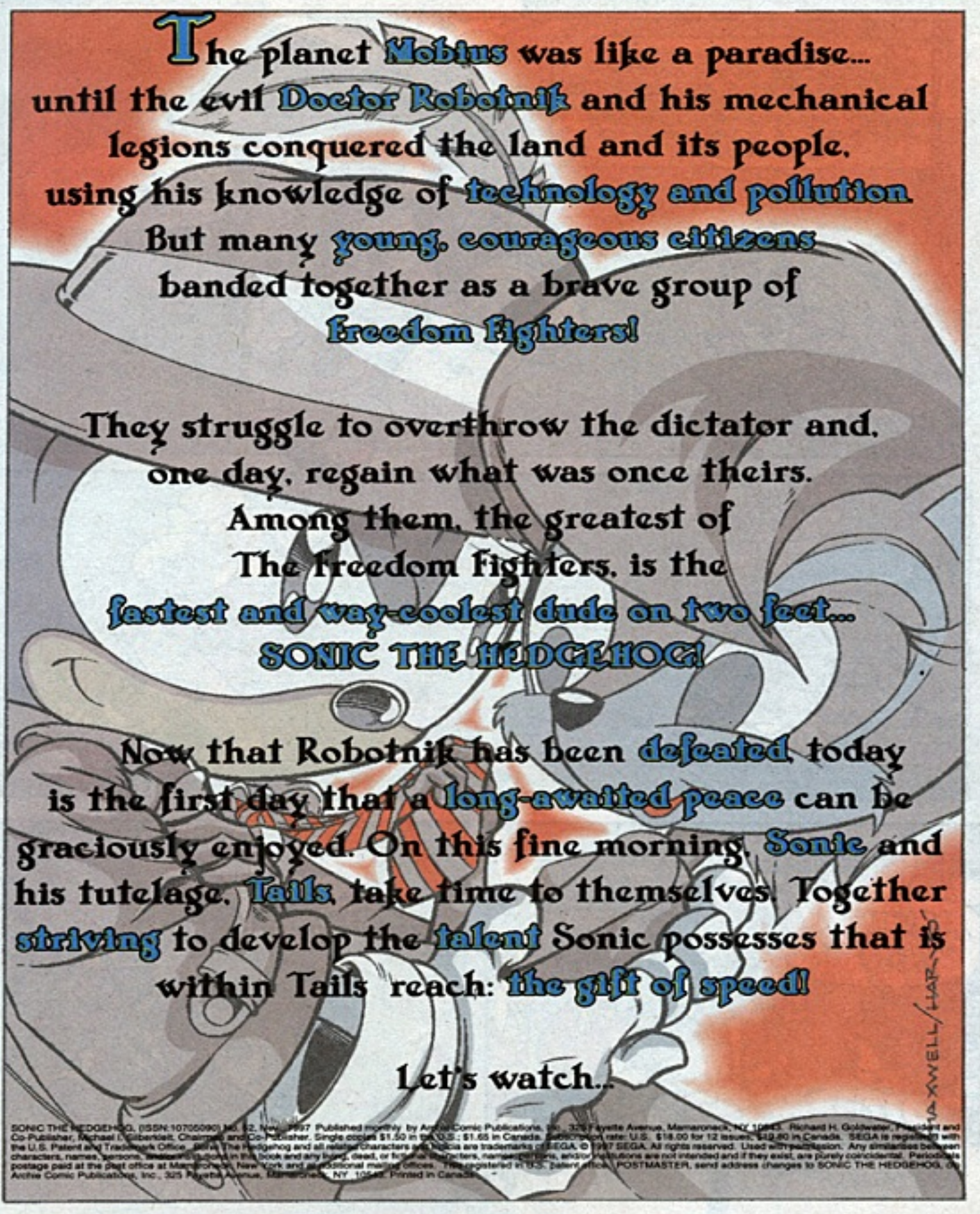
Where
have all
the cookies
gone?

Into Hershey's®
Cookies'n' Creme.
Jammed with cookies.
Crammed with Crunch.



A mouthful of cookies in every bite.





The planet **Mobius** was like a paradise...
until the evil **Doctor Robotnik** and his mechanical
legions conquered the land and its people,
using his knowledge of **technology and pollution**.
But many **young, courageous citizens**
banded together as a brave group of
Freedom Fighters!

They struggle to overthrow the dictator and,
one day, regain what was once theirs.

Among them, the greatest of
The Freedom Fighters, is the
fastest and way-coolest dude on two feet...
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

Now that Robotnik has been **defeated**, today
is the first day that a **long-awaited peace** can be
graciously enjoyed. On this fine morning, **Sonic** and
his tutelage, **Tails**, take time to themselves. Together
striving to develop the **talent** Sonic possesses that is
within Tails' reach: **the gift of speed!**

Let's watch...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, ISSN 1070-0990, Vol. 12, No. 1, 1997. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10643. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael J. Silberstein, Chairman, and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.50 in the U.S.; \$1.65 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$18.00 for 12 issues, \$22.00 in Canada. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All the Hedgehog and all related characters and names are trademarks of SEGA. © 1997 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, places or things in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, places, or persons are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. The registered in U.S. Patent Office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10643. Printed in Canada.

IN THIS TIME OF RESTORED PEACE, SONIC TAKES ON THE ROLE OF MENTOR AND INSTRUCTS YOUNG TAILS IN THE WAYS OF SPEED. BESIDES FREEDOM, LIKE A NICE DAY, IS SOMETHING TO BE ENJOYED.

CONCENTRATION IS EVERYTHING, TAILS.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

WHAT...?

WHOA!

I DON'T KNOW WHOSE LITTLE SCHEME THIS IS, BUT IT SURE IS CHEEZY LOOKIN'.

I'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT AND SEE FOR MYSELF.

DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE?

I DON'T KNOW. YOU JUST GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS.

I'M ALREADY GONE.



IN ANOTHER TIME,
ANOTHER PLACE...

THE DISCOVERY

ZONE
PART 1

PEOPLE COME TO THIS CLASSY
ESTABLISHMENT TO DANCE,
AND GET AWAY FROM THE EVIL
DOCTOR AND HIS ROBOTIC ARMY.
THIS IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE
PEOPLE OF THIS CITY, FOR THIS IS
ONE PLACE THE DOCTOR'S ALL
SEEING EYES AND LISTENING EARS
ARE NOT.



•SCRIPT, TOM BOLSTON •PENCILER, MANNY GALAN •INKER, JIM AMASH •COLORIST, HARL BOLLERS •LETTERER, JEFF POWELL •
•EDITOR, J. FREDDY GABRIE •MANAGING EDITOR, VICTOR GORELICK •EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, RICHARD GOLDWATER •



I KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS THE POWER AND INFORMATION TO RID MOBIUS OF THAT HORRIBLE DOCTOR ROBOTNIK FOREVER...

...AND STOP HIM FROM TURNING GOOD PEOPLE INTO ROBOT SLAVES.

UH, I'M LISTENING. CONTINUE, PLEASE.

ALL SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO DO IS FIND MY FRIEND NICOLE...

...BRING HER BACK TO ME...

...AND COLLECT A NICE, BIG, JUICY REWARD.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A MAN!

"SHE WAS LAST SEEN AT THE SLIPPY DIPPY SLIDE FACTORY. ON THE WEST SIDE!"

I'LL HAVE HER BACK IN YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HANDS IN NO TIME!

ZIP!

Q: WHAT WOULD
YOU DO IF
YOU WERE FACING
A STAMPEDE OF
WILD DINOSAURS?



A:

I'D
EAT
'EM!



FREE INSIDE **Post** **Cocoa PEBBLES!**
COCOASAURUS SPRINKLES!

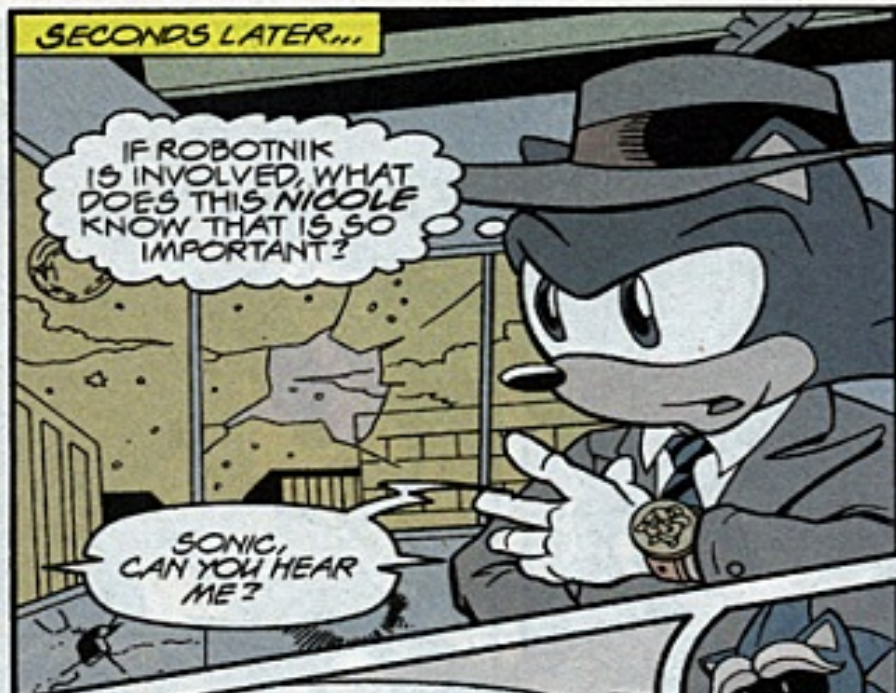
4 DINOSAUR SHAPES!
DINO-MITE CHOCOLATEY TASTE!

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YOU DON'T USE THIS TYPE OF OIL IN MAKING SLIDES. THIS IS ROBOT OIL, AND I KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE FAT MAN WHO WOULD SEND OIL-DRIPPIN' JUNK PILES TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.





THEY'RE HEADING
FOR THE HEART OF
THE CITY. GOTTA GET
UNDER 'EM FAST
BEFORE THEY ENTER
ROBOTNIK'S CONTROL
RANGE!



OKAY, IT'S
TIME TO GO
TO WORK!



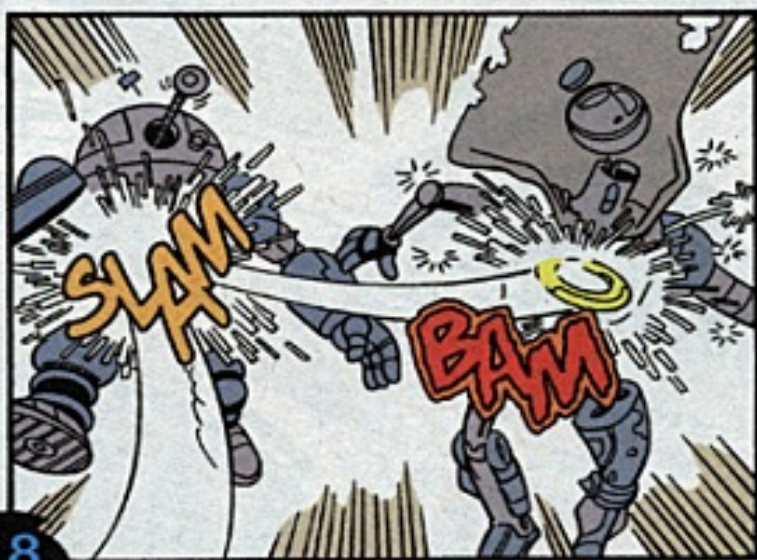
DANGER...
DANGER...

MUST
COMPLETE
MISSION!



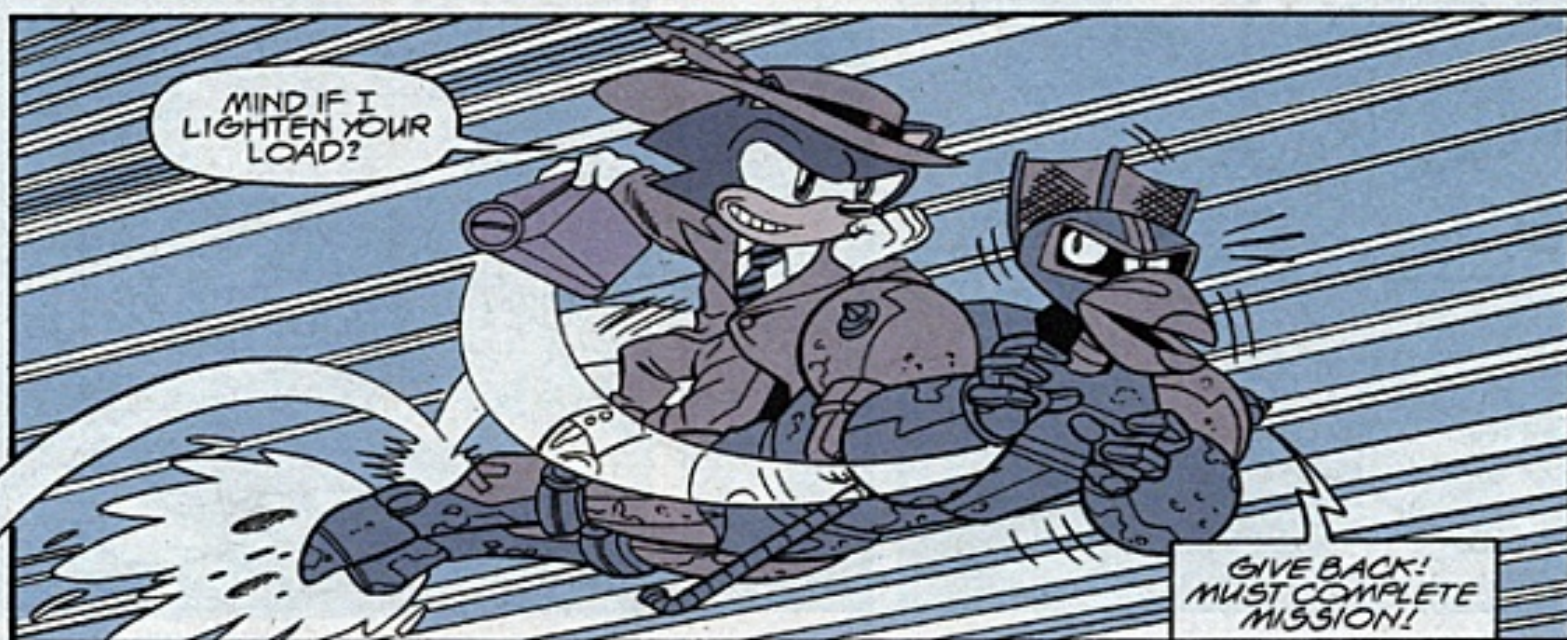
LET ME
GUESS, ROBOTNIK
SENT YOU!

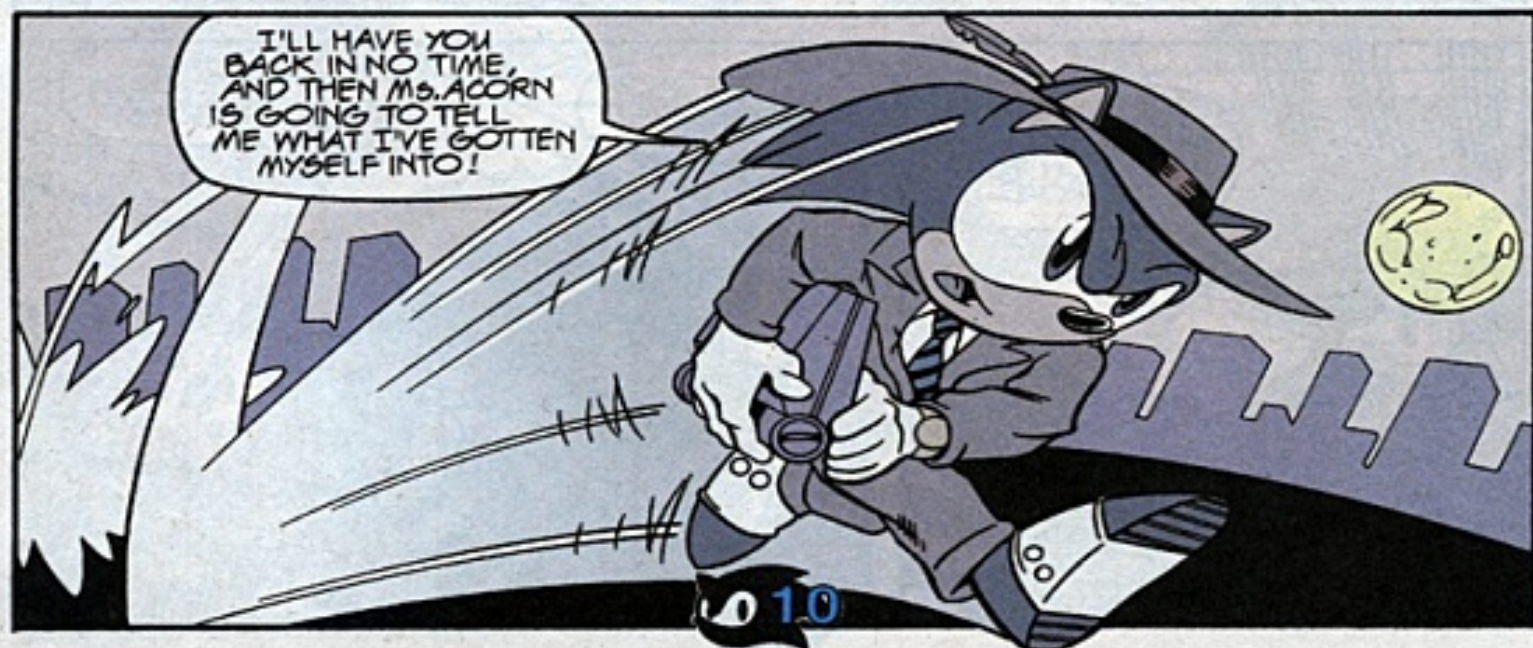
HERE'S
A MESSAGE
FOR HIM.



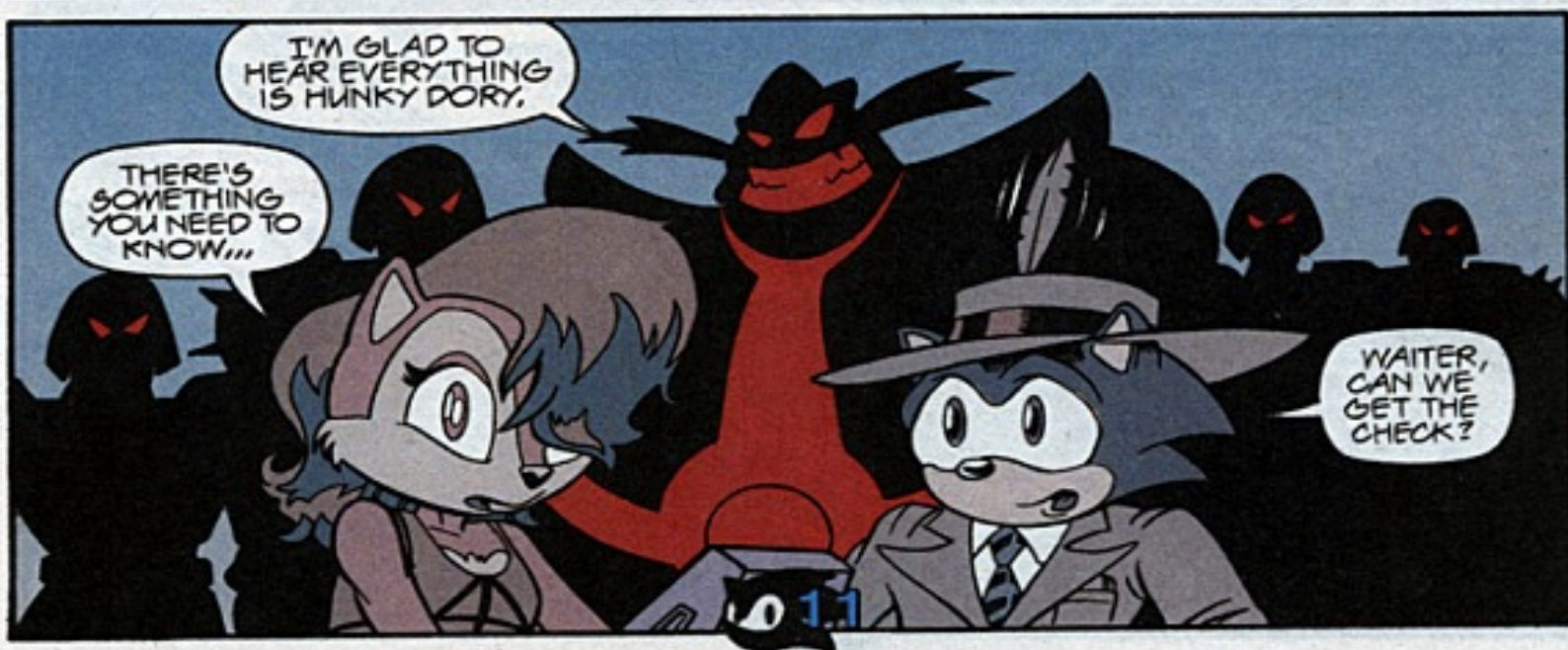
SLAM

BAM





THE DISCOVERY ZONE





WOULDN'T WANT
THE LITTLE LADY TO
LOSE HER HEAD
PREMATURELY.

SONIC,
I'M SO
SORRY!

IF I TOLD YOU ALL THE
DETAILS, YOU MIGHT NOT
HAVE WANTED THE CASE.
I DOWNLOADED ALL OF
ROBOTNIK'S FILES FROM
THE SLIDE FACTORY INTO
NICOLE'S MEMORY BANK.

"THEN THESE ROBOTS SHOWED
UP. I WAS TRAPPED! I HAD TO
GET NICOLE OUT OF THERE
AND BACK TO THE FOREST..."

"...ANYWAY I COULD, SO THE
FIRST CHANCE I GOT, I
CLIMBED OUT AN OPEN WINDOW.

"THAT'S WHEN I DROPPED NICOLE.
I COULDN'T GO BACK AND RISK
GETTING CAUGHT LOOKING FOR HER.
THAT'S WHY I HIRED YOU. IF ANY-
ONE COULD GET IN AND OUT OF
THAT PLACE IN A JIFFY, IT WAS YOU!"







"I'M SORRY,
SALLY. I WORK
ALONE."

I WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER.
WE COULD REALLY USE A MAN LIKE
YOU IN THE REBELLION, AND I'M
SURE ROBOTNIK HAS PUT PLANS
INTO EFFECT THAT WILL MAKE THE
INFORMATION IN NICOLE USELESS.



BUT THINK OF IT.
ONE STRONG TEAM AGAINST
ROBOTNIK, OR TWO TEAMS
BUMPING INTO ONE ANOTHER
OUT THERE.

WELL, YOU'RE
STARTING TO MAKE
SOME SENSE, MS.
ACORN. ALRIGHT...
I'M IN.



UNITED WE
STAND, DIVIDED
WE FALL!

ALONE, HE COULD ONLY SLOW ROBOTNIK'S PLANS TO
TURN THE WORLD INTO ROBOTS, BUT AS PART OF A TEAM
HE CAN SAVE THE FOREST AND RESTORE PEACE TO THE
CITY. THE REBELLION HAS A POWERFUL NEW ALLY AND
THEIR STRUGGLE GOES ON, WITH NEW HOPE.



FAN ART

SONIC

NOELE CARBALLO
AGE 13
CHANDLER, AZ

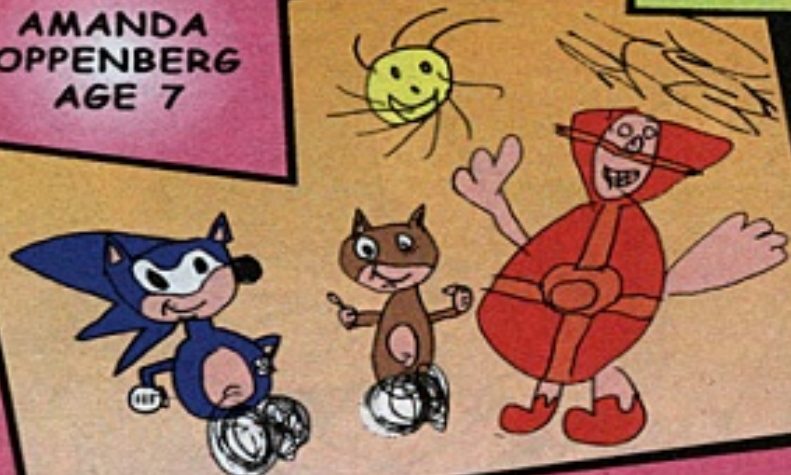


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BIGGS
AGE 11



AUSTIN
ABBAMONTE
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From Canada: Arthur Lucas, Shane Ducharme, Sparky Young, Natalie Rachel, Matthew Ross, Amilee Hagen (Spaz/Harvo thank you) and Trevor Lake.

From Australia: Christina Nichols Darwin.

From Singapore: Liew Wenhui Sherman and Ken Kern (age 8).

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Letter
And
To Our
Writers
Artists!

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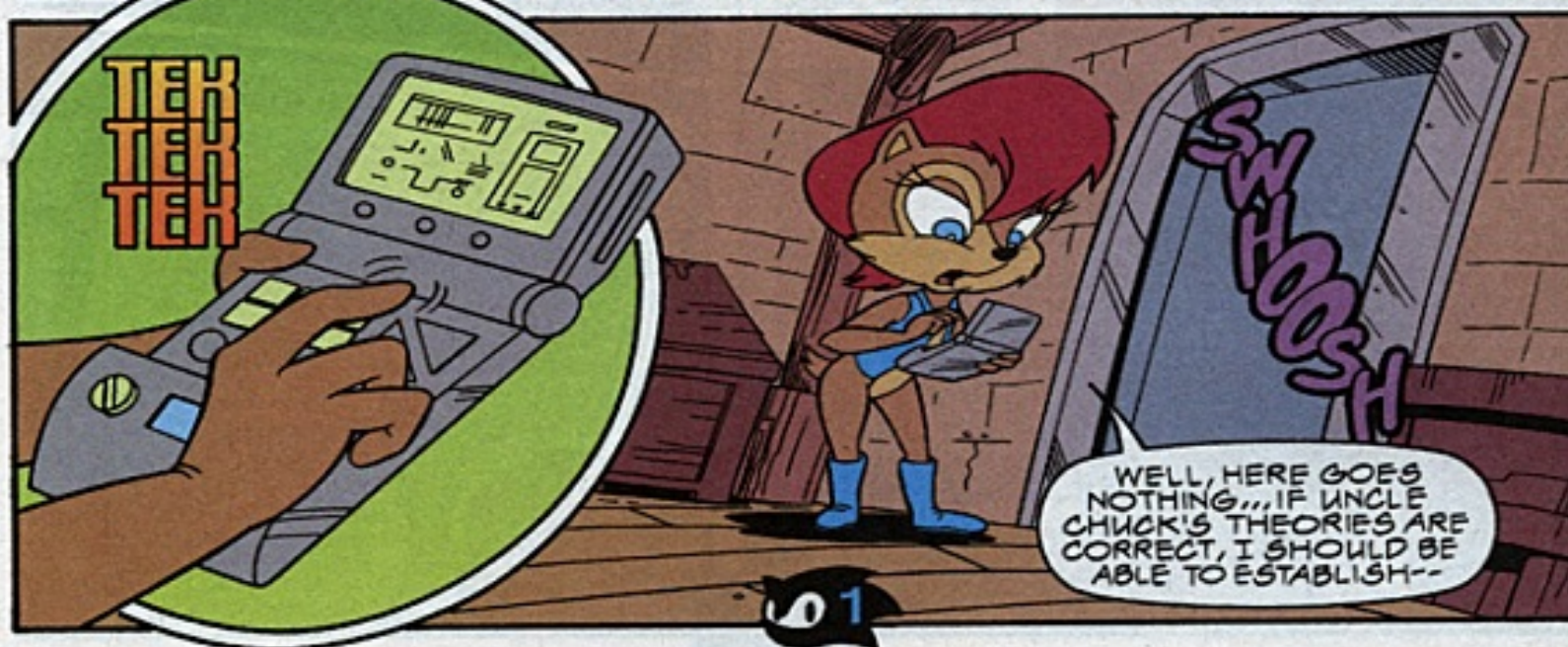
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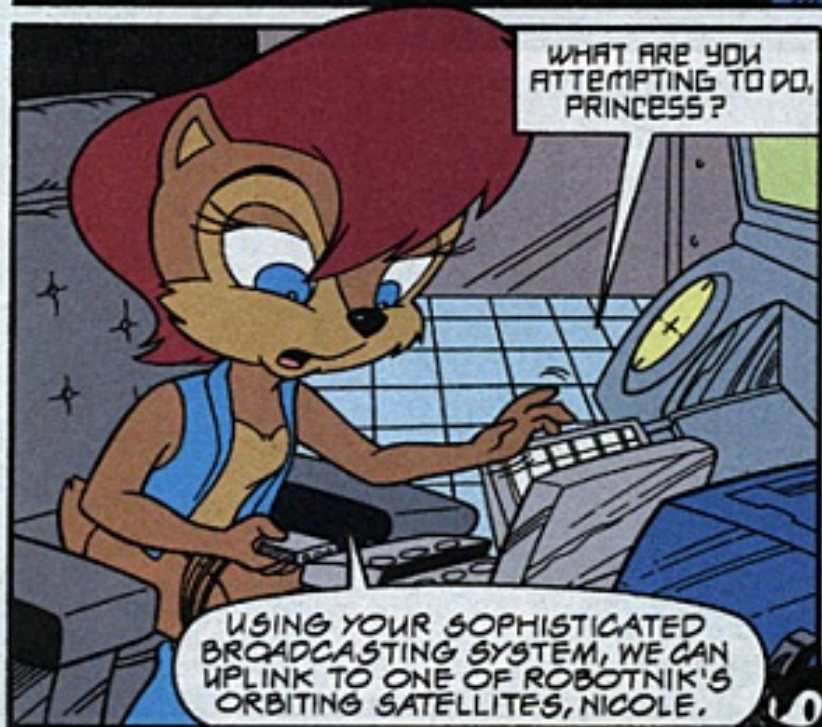
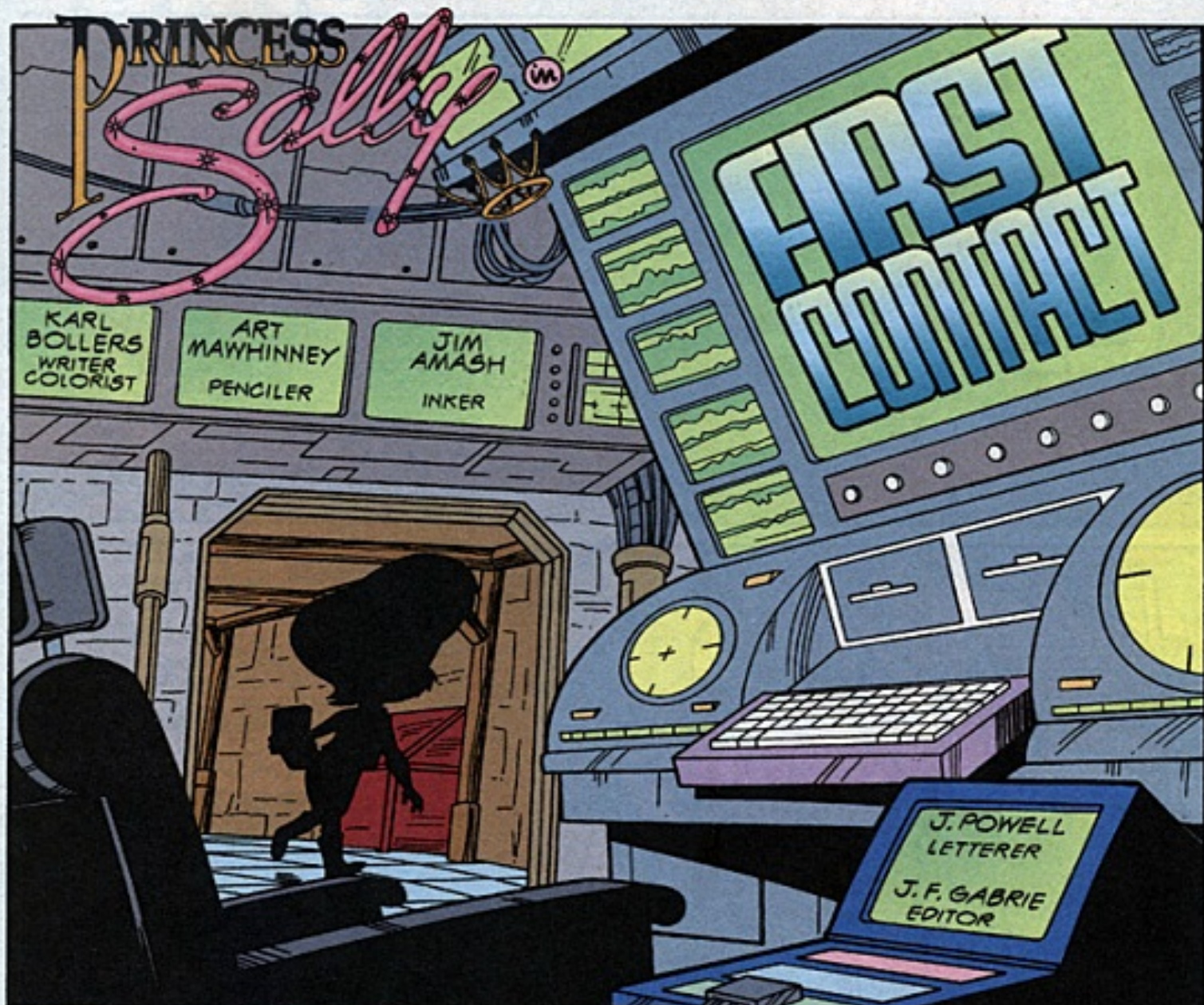
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MO. YR.

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HOPEFULLY, I'LL BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS AROUND MOBIUS AS ROBOTNIK HAS WITH HIS MID-BOSSSES.



THIS IS
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
OF KNOTHOLE...

...DO YOU
READ?

WE READ
YOU--

--LOUD
AND--

--CLEAR,
PRINCESS!



I'VE CONTACTED
YOU FOR REASONS OF
DIRE IMPORTANCE.

LET ME
EXPLAIN...





"AS I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW, OUR PLANET OF MOBIUS HAS BEEN UNDER SIEGE BY IVO ROBOTNIK, HIS MID-BOSSSES AND HIS ROBOT FORCES FOR LONGER THAN ANY OF US CARE TO REMEMBER!

"USING THE TWISTED TECHNOLOGY AT HIS DISPOSAL, ROBOTNIK MADE US BELIEVE THAT MY FATHER, THE KING, HAD FINALLY RETURNED..."

"...WHEN IN FACT IT WAS PART OF ROBOTNIK'S PLAN TO--

"--MAKE EVERYONE THINK THAT I'D HAD A FATAL FALL--

"--FRAME SONIC THE HEDGEHOG FOR THE TREACHEROUS DEED--

"--AND FINALLY FIND AND ENSLAVE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!"

"MANAGING TO ESCAPE, SONIC HAD TO CONVINCE GEOFFREY ST. JOHN OF HIS INNOCENCE,...

"...BEFORE THEY COULD TEAM UP TO LIBERATE OUR HOME!

"BUT BELIEVE ME, ROBOTNIK WASN'T GOING TO GO OUT EASY!

"USING HIS DOOMSDAY DEVICE, THE **ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR**, HE SOUGHT TO ERASE ALL OF EXISTENCE.

"INSTEAD, HIS PLAN BACKFIRED!

"I AWAKENED FROM MY DEATH-LIKE COMA TO FIND THAT ROBOTNIK WAS GONE FOREVER, SONIC WAS A HERO, AND MY TRUE FATHER WAS **ALIVE!**"

"WE PLAN TO ENTER INTO ROBOTROPOLIS TOMORROW MORNING TO ASCERTAIN THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR FORMER CAPITAL. THIS IS A GREAT STEP TOWARD A FREE MOBIUS."

AS POSITIVE AS THAT SOUNDS... I'M SAD TO SAY THAT THINGS DIDN'T TURN OUT AS HAPPILY EVER AFTER AS WE'D HOPED.

WHAT DO YE MEAN, PRINCESS?

"WELL, ROBOTNIK'S DOOMSDAY DEVICE MALFUNCTIONED APPARENTLY DESTROYING HIM IN THE PROCESS..."

"BUT IT ALSO OPENED A SERIES OF WHAT OUR SCIENTISTS ARE CALLING ZONES OR..."

"...ALTERNATE REALITIES IN RANDOM APPEARANCES AROUND THE PLANET! SONIC FELL INTO ONE BY A CAVE TODAY THAT DISAPPEARED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.*"

"EVEN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE EXISTS IN A TEMPORAL ZONE THREE HOURS AHEAD, THE ONLY WAY IN AND OUT IS THROUGH THE GREAT OAK SLIDE."

*SEE MAIN STORY. -- J. Freddy

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US, SALLY?

BEWARE THE ZONES. THEY ARE ALL--

WELL, I HOPE I'VE GIVEN THEM ENOUGH INFO TO STAY CLEAR OF THE ZONES.

--OVER! NO! WHAT HAPPENED, NICOLE?

ONLY TIME WILL TELL, PRINCESS. ONLY TIME WILL TELL.

SATELLITE UPLINK HAS DETERIORATED, PRINCESS.

End.



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FAN WILL WANT TO MISS!**

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SONIC-GRAMS

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor

THIS JUST IN! THE WAITING IS ALMOST OVER!

In two weeks, you will read a comic that has it all! The Freedom Fighters travel into Robotropolis to assess the amount of damage done to their former city of Mobotropolis.

But what kind of surprises await them? Are they friendly or deadly? And what does Snively think of all this? You don't think he's just going to let them stroll in, do you? Also, BIG Sonic news revealed in this issue, so don't miss it!!! Story and art by Ken Penders! **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #2: "Brave New World"** on sale Sept. '97.

...And next month, two stories for the price of one! As the Freedom Fighters handle recent events, Knuckles and

Julie-Su come to town. For what purpose? Read and see for yourself. Written and Inked by Ken Penders. Pencils by Art Mawhinney. So you thought Robotnik being gone would be the end of The Freedom Fighters' problems? Not when you have people like Warlord Kodos and the "supposed" creator of the Zone of Silence, wizard extraordinaire Ixis Naugus, vying for control! Story by Karl Bollers with art by Sam Maxwell and Pam Eklund. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #53** on sale Sept. '97.

Due to an oversight, last issue ran without the credits, so here they are.

KARL BOLLERS
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SAM MAXWELL
PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY
INKER
JEFF POWELL
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Dear Sonic- Grams,

I absolutely loved the return of Mobie The Cave-Bear in SONIC #45. I think Spaz did a great job on the cover. Mobie looks great. Sonic was pretty slick trying to give the Guerrilla Gorillas their own weaponry. As for KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION mini-series, I can't wait to see how it turns out. I am a big fan of both Knuckles and Sonic, equally. Gotta juice!

Michael "Reptile" Davis
Richlands, NC

Spaz thanks you for your comments on his artwork. He aims to please. I got a kick working with Mobie again (even though I can't understand a word he's saying). I'm sure the Gorillas and Mobie can live in peace in the Mobian Jungle. Knuckles on the other hand (or fist), is going through a lot of stuff in his book. He'll be taking a break and making a special visit in my book next issue.

Dear Sonic & Knuckles,

Salutations from your #1 fan! I hate to bother you, but I have a few questions: 1) Why do you hate each other so much? 2) If Sally's a chipmunk, why is her father a fox? 3) Where did Archimedes come from? 4) What happened to your dad? Say "Hi" to Tails for my friend Katy the Fox (she thinks he's cute).

Streaks Echidna
St. Augustine, FL

Salutations right back at 'cha. Believe me, questions are not a bother (Antoine's foot odor is): 1) Knuckles and I don't hate each other, we just kind of never saw eye to eye and we annoyed each other for it. But, after sticking by my side in issue #50, I think he's a righteous dude. 2) Who said Sally's father, King Acorn was a fox? King Acorn is a squirrel and Sally's mom is a chipmunk, which makes Sally a little of both, I guess. 3&4) Check out Knuckles' own series for the answer to those questions.

Dear Sonic,

Yo, what's up? Just thought I'd write in and say "Hi" to everyone. I started my subscription last August. In SONIC #46, Antoine said he thought St. John was the spy. I agree with him. I have some questions: 1) Why do you hate Knuckles? He's one of the good guys, too, you know. I like him as much as I like you. 2) Why did you start that fight in SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES Special #1? 3) Are there any gem stones more powerful than the Chaos Emeralds? Keep up the good work!

Amanda Coombes
Terre Haute, IN

Welcome aboard the Sonic Express. We love welcoming new readers all the time (even if it was last August), so on to your questions: 1) Why does everyone think I hate Knuckles? I know we started on the wrong foot and got into a few scraps but I don't hate The Rad Red. I'll make sure everyone knows it one day. 2) Well, I thought he was going to strike a deal with Robotnik like he did when we first met. He was tricked by Robotnik to fight us so I should have known he wasn't teaming with him again. Chalk one up to experience. 3) I don't know of anything more powerful on Mobius than a Chaos Emerald.

Dear Sonic,

Hey, cool-blue hedgehog! Robotnik's still up to no good? It figures. If you looked like him, you wouldn't exactly want to be a good guy! Anyway, I loved SONIC #46! It was almost as cool as you (and Tails) are! I liked Lupe and The Wolfpack Freedom Fighters. I appreciate Bunnie and Dulcy making an appearance but I'd really like to see Amy Rose again. Question time: 1) Will there be a Bunnie mini-series? 2) Are you going to show other Freedom Fighters? 3) Are you going to reprint SONIC #3 & #25? See ya in those comics, compadre! Kendra "Krazy Kat" Kountz (Age 11)
Killeco

You're right. Looking like Robotnik would drive me to do bad. Rest assured, never will yours truly ever sprout an orange mustache. It would hurt my style of blueness. Anyway, answer time: 1) No Bunnie mini-series scheduled for the near future. 2) Yes. 3) No plans on reprinting SONIC #25, but you're in luck for SONIC #3, as well as SONIC #0, SONIC #4, and SONIC #13 in a special we're calling "SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: FIRSTS!" This special bookshelf edition will showcase the first appearances of Sonic and The Freedom Fighters (#0), Bunnie Rabbot (#3), Super Sonic (#4) and everyone's favorite guardlan, Knuckles The Echidna (#13). Look for it in local shops by the end of September. More about this next month.

P.S: Also in September...
The official launch for the Archie web-site!
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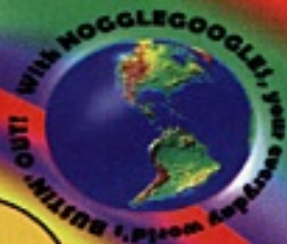
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